

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

30511

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	New Naval Base in Varna	DATE DISTR.	14 July 1954
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This is UNEVALUATED

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The new naval base of Varna (now Stalin) comprises an area with the following boundaries: to the north, the canal connecting Varna Lake with the Black Sea (except for that section of the canal bordering the shipbuilding yards for concrete barges and the "Petrol" Fuel Depot); to the west, the highway which runs from Varna to Asparukhovo; and to the east, the old highway which runs from the "Petrol" Fuel Depot to Asparukhovo and which is about 200 meters from the seashore. One of the branches of the canal connecting Varna Lake with the Black Sea is in this area. 25X1
2. Construction in this area began in early 1951 with the building of barracks for the naval base. These barracks are located near the railroad line running to the "Petrol" Fuel Depot near the Varna-Asparukhovo highway, and south of the dikes built for the shipyard for concrete barges. This barracks area is about 250 meters long and 180 meters wide and contains 11 barracks buildings including one 2-story "L"-shaped building which is 10-12 meters wide and whose two wings are respectively 90 and 40 meters in length. This building has 25 rooms. Six 1-story buildings, each about 30 x 8 meters in size, have been converted into warehouses. The other three 1-story buildings, each 80 x 10 meters in size, are used as garages and parking buildings. One building is used as a bath house.

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

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3. In the fall of 1952, large quantities of construction material were brought here. In early 1953, preparatory work was completed and the construction of new housing was started on the northern edge of Asparukhovo. This area is located between the Varna-Asparukhovo highway, the old "Petrol" Fuel Depot-Asparukhovo road, and the dirt road connecting the two highways north of the "Khristo Botev" Primary School in Asparukhovo.
4. All of this area, up to the railroad line which runs to the "Petrol" Fuel Depot, is enclosed with a barbed wire fence. This area includes the buildings of the "Zurneni Khrani" (Cereal Foods) State Association in Varna.
5. In April 1953, this area had seven large dwelling units, each about 40 x 20 meters in size; however, none of these units had been completed at that time; some had two stories completed, others had only one story done, and two of these had only their foundations built. [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] construction work is moving along rapidly. 25X1  
Two shifts of workers were employed here during the spring and it was said that there would be three shifts working during the summer. 25X1
6. [redacted] these dwelling units [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] belong to Project No. 586. [redacted] these buildings were designed 25X1  
for naval officers and their families and also that they were to be used as 25X1  
housing for workers. 25X1
7. [redacted] the construction of the dwelling units was 25X1  
carried out according to the Soviet method; that is, all the concrete blocks and supports were placed on the ground and then hoisted with powerful cranes and placed in position. [redacted] lime and whitewash were mixed mechanically. 25X1
8. The excavation for the basin in the naval base area was first started in February 1953. This excavation was begun near the branch of the canal connecting Varna Lake with the Black Sea. The excavation for the lake was made with the help of the "Omega" floating dredge. The front section of this dredge dug the earth and, with the help of powerful compressor tubes, threw the dirt to the side, towards the barracks area. It was planned to construct an embankment 1.2 meters high here. [redacted] dimensions of 25X1  
the basin [redacted] was 100 meters wide and 200 meters 25X1  
long in April 1953.
9. Reinforced concrete blocks 1.5 x 1.5 x 2 meters in size were to be used to line the bottom and the walls of the basin, at the time of excavation. The reinforced concrete blocks were made at an area located approximately 60-70 meters north of the canal which connects Varna Lake with the Black Sea and about 350 meters east of the Varna-Asparukhovo road. This area includes a concrete platform and barracks for workers. The prepared blocks were transported and stored in an area near the northern side of the canal. About 100 blocks were stored here in April 1953.
10. A brick building without a roof was built on the southeast edge of the lake, about 15 meters west of the railroad line running to the "Petrol" Fuel Depot. There are four diagonal supports which connect in the center of the building and form a sort of tower. The building was allegedly to be T-shaped. [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] the technicians referred to it 25X1  
as the "special installation."
11. Almost the entire area of the new naval base is enclosed with a barbed wire fence. Only workers with a pass are allowed to enter the area, which is guarded by 20 soldiers.
12. Project No. 1586 was constructed under the strict supervision of Soviet specialists whose technical and administrative staff consisted of approximately 15 persons. A considerable number of Bulgarian specialists with their staffs also worked here.

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13. The Bulgarian chief of the project was Engineer Dragnev (fnu) [redacted] 25X1

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14. Of the 3,000 workers on the project, 400 were civilians and the remainder were Trudovaks. The Trudovaks came from two battalions, Podelenie 24-40 and 24-80, subordinate to the Varna Trudovak Brigade, Podelenie 24-00. Most of the Trudovaks were used for the construction of dwelling units, for the excavation of large canals between the project and the dwelling units, and for unloading and transportation of construction materials. The civilians were chiefly specialists, most of whom were employed in making soundings. About 30 sounding instruments were used constantly for soil research studies.

15. Either a new canal was built or an old one was rebuilt extending from Varna to Asparukhovo and on in an unknown direction between the highway and the railroad line and alongside the Varna-Asparukhovo highway. This canal was about 40 centimeters wide and about 60-70 centimeters deep. Its bottom was lined with bricks. A thick cable (or a number of cables) were placed here, and there were pits at intervals of 100 meters. The canal was constructed by seamen.

16. The Trudovak units with Podelenies 24-40 and 24-80 were quartered in a large frame building approximately 200 x 15 meters in size, which is located in the northwest corner of the area where the dwelling units are located, about 60 meters east of the Varna-Asparukhovo road and about 120 meters south from the dirt road connecting this highway with the "Petrol" Fuel Depot-Asparukhovo road.

17. Three or four new Soviet buses were used to transport civilian personnel to Project No. 586. About 60-70 ZIS-150 trucks and about 20 Molotov trucks were used for transporting construction materials at this project. The garages for these trucks are located about 100 meters west of the Varna railroad station. The project is also equipped with the following:

- a. Four or five hoisting power shovels, with a "Yavrenets" chain;
- b. Five or six cranes, of 5-6 tons capacity; used for the dwelling units;
- c. Three bulldozers;
- d. One canal excavator; and
- e. 30-40 sounding instruments.

18. A large quantity of boxes, each 6 x 4 x 2-3 meters in size, with Soviet markings, is stored in the northern edge of the area for Project No. 586. These boxes, most probably, contain machinery which arrived from the USSR.

19. The following legend refers to a sketch of the new naval base area in Varna, [redacted] included as an Appendix on page 5: 25X1

1. "VMS" Barracks in Varna:

- a. Warehouses
- b. Garages
- c. Bathhouse
- d. Barracks

2. Shipyard for building cement barges

3. New basin excavation

4. Direction in which excavation continues

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5. Directions in which excavated earth is thrown
6. Area in which materials going to the USSR are stored
7. Location at which cement barges are built
8. Dwelling units of the VMS; completed
9. Dwelling units of the VMS; under construction
10. "Khraneksport" warehouses
11. "Khristo Botev" Primary School
12. Unloading area
13. "Petrol" Fuel Depot:
  - a. Buildings
  - b. Large cement tanks
  - c. Small metal tanks
  - d. Large metal tanks
  - e. Railroad platform
  - f. Pier
14. Asparukhovo bridge
15. Railroad line from Varna to the "Petrol" Fuel Depot
16. Underground cable circuit
17. Canal which joins Lake Varna with the Black Sea
18. Branch of canal
19. Varna-Asparukhovo-Burgas road
20. Road from the "Petrol" Fuel Depot to Asparukhovo
21. Black Sea
22. Asparukhovo
23. Special building
24. Brick barracks with accommodations for Trudovak unit
25. Dike
26. Artillery battery position
- \*\*\* Barbed wire fence
- Permanent sentry posts

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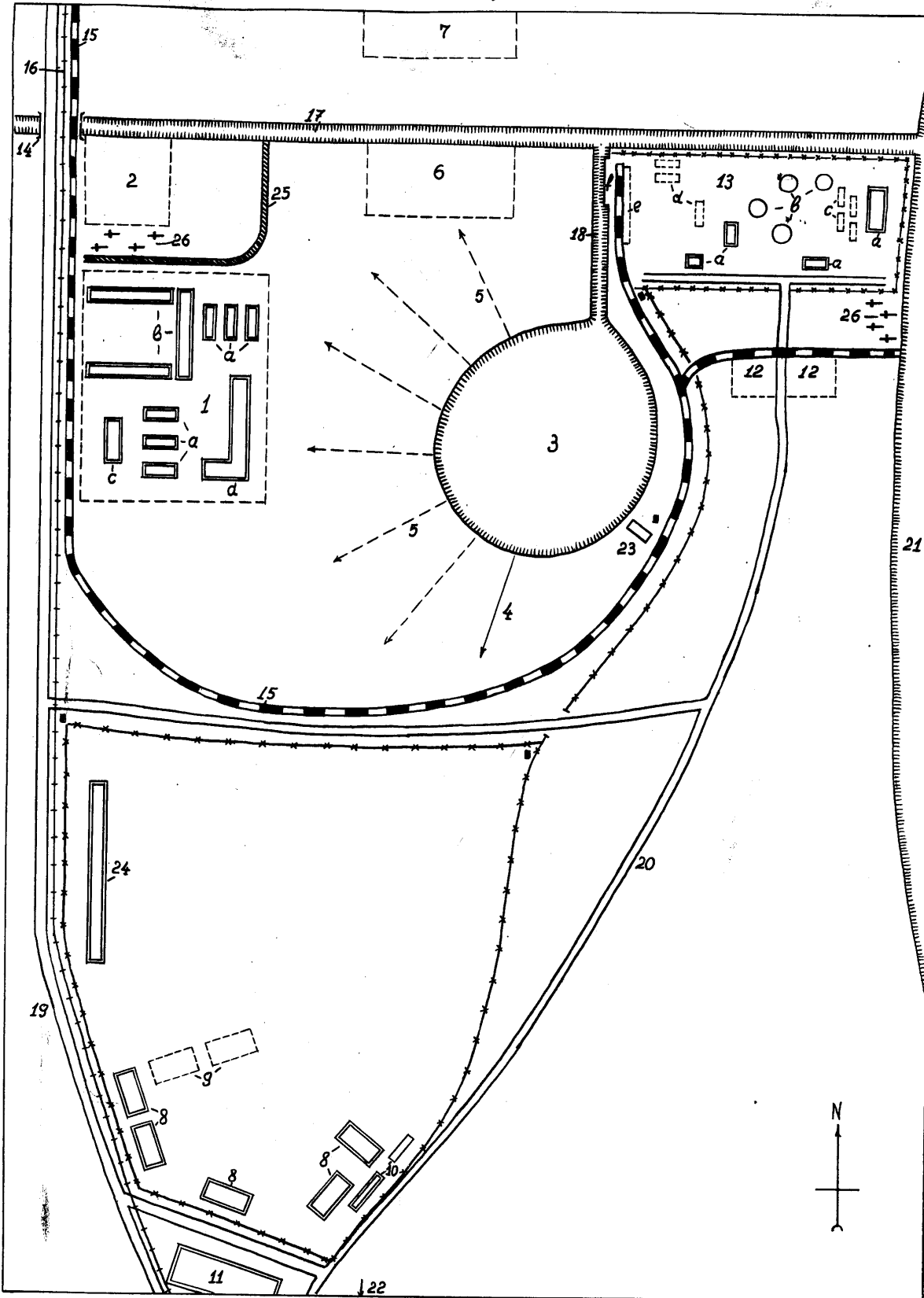
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APPENDIX

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